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MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2004

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

CC: PHIL SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER

FROM: ROB KRUPICKA

SUBJECT: COG HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

Below is an update of the COG Human Services Committee meeting of February 20, 2004.

- 1) Walter Tejada, a member of the Arlington County Board, began his term as the chair of the committee. The focus of his term will be on ethnic and community outreach in the Washington DC area.
- 2) COG provided a brief presentation on current housing programs. A Presentation is attached. The committee had a lengthy conversation about the difficulty of obtaining adequate quantities of workforce housing in the region. Many localities are struggling with the issues of requiring projects to include affordable housing vs. contributions to housing trust funds. Also, Mildrilyn Davis is going to be the chairperson for the Housing Directors Advisory Committee this year.
- 3) We are all encouraged to attend the Foster Parent appreciation gala, Saturday, May 1 at 7PM at the Trinity Center at Trinity College. We will be paired up with foster parents from our City. This is a save the date - I will share more information when I receive it.
- 4) In addition to a number of other foster parent and adoption programs, COG will be partnering with the US Children's Bureau's AdoptUSKids campaign. This national campaign will begin in April of this year.
- 5) The Potomac Regional Education Partnership (PREP) is planning to promote the 2004-2004 academic year as the Year of the Teacher in order to promote the recruitment and retention of qualified teachers in our region. The Human Services Committee voted to support this activity. Washington area school districts will need to recruit about 12,000 new teachers each year and area colleges and universities only produce 4,700. School districts supplement the shortfall by recruiting teachers from other regions and providing incentives to move to Washington, DC.

*"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"*

- 6) We received an update on COG's Health programs. Given the increased focus on emergency planning, there has been a reduction in resources for health programs. We discussed the need to integrate emergency planning into health program planning. We also discussed a variety of areas for COG health efforts to focus. This will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting. If anybody has suggestions for particular areas of focus, please let me know.



# Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

## Housing Program Activities

Human Services Policy Committee

February 20, 2004

## COG Housing Programs

### Housing Directors Advisory Committee

Workplan for 2004 includes:

- Improved data collection to track residential construction
- Regulatory barriers to affordable housing
- Continued implementation of strategies from *Finding a Way Home*, COG's 2001 policy statement

## COG Housing Programs

### Housing Choice Voucher Program

- Provide professional development opportunities for housing agency staff
- Develop program to train Voucher recipients and recruit and retain landlords
- Respond to any proposed changes to program
- Coordinate other activities related to the Housing Choice Voucher Program (ex. – 2003 utility rate survey)

## COG Housing Programs

### Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee

- 4<sup>th</sup> annual homeless enumeration conducted January 21, 2004
- Report, including policy recommendation, for HSPC action in April
- Professional development seminars for front-line staff, government representatives and committee members

## COG Housing Programs

### Community Development Work Study

- COG has administered program for 20+ years
- 3 universities participate – University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland, and George Mason University
- 3 students from each university receive stipend of \$9,000 per year for 2 years, plus internship at public or non-profit agency involved in community development, public administration, housing, and a number of other fields.
- 100+ placements available each year, many students hired permanently by placement agencies

## Washington Area Housing Partnership

### Workplan for 2004

- Development of marketing and public education campaign
- Regional rental housing survey
- Publications
  - Annual Regional Housing Report (May 2004)
  - Quarterly Housing News (last issue: February 2004)

## Washington Area Housing Trust Fund

### Objectives of Fund

- Increase and preserve the supply of affordable homes in region
- Increase the visibility of affordable housing
- Help educate region about affordable housing needs and opportunities
- Encourage balanced growth by emphasizing affordable housing near employment and transportation centers

## Washington Area Housing Trust Fund

### Purpose & Structure

- Capitalized by federal government, private foundations, and corporations
- Strong relationship with COG, including members of Trust Fund Board of Directors
  - Fairfax County Board Supervisor Catherine Hudgins
  - DC Council Member Carol Schwartz (Co-Chair)
  - Prince George's County Council Member Peter Shapiro

## Washington Area Housing Trust Fund

### Capitalization

- \$500,000 secured in FY'03 federal budget
- \$1 million joint initiative with National Housing Trust Development Fund
- \$400,000 secured in FY '04 specifically for DC projects
- Goal: \$1 million in private sector capitalization in 2004

## COG Housing Programs

- Questions
- Policy Discussion

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### Quality Child Care Matters

The National Institute on Child Health and Human Development has released a study that found that the better the quality of child care, the more likely it was that children would score well on cognitive and language tests, and behave better. Children in higher quality child care also cooperated more with their mothers and earned higher scores on measurements of language comprehension and school readiness.

A U.S. Department of Education study found that good quality early childhood education positively affects reading and mathematics skills. Participants in the study were more likely to attend college or hold high-skilled jobs, and were less likely to become parents by age 21.



### Caregivers and Quality

To give our children the care they deserve, we need to create more opportunities for caregivers to advance their training and skills.

According to a report by the National Council on Jewish Women, better trained child care staff are more likely to create warm, caring environments that are responsive to the needs of children and that help them succeed in school.

But this study also found that because of low wages and the high cost of education many child care employees are unable to take advantage of training.

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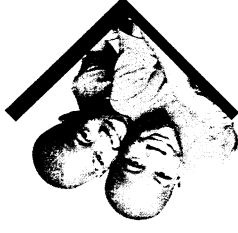


### Higher Education Scholarship Project

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HESP was developed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to provide opportunities for child care providers to enhance their skills through tuition-free college-level education and training.



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For more information on how you can support HESP, become a mentor, or contribute to the scholarship fund, please contact:



COG Child Care Program  
Attn: Terri Braxton  
777 N. Capitol St. NE  
Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Phone: (202) 962-3264  
E-mail: TBRAXTON@mwkog.org

Printed with funds from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The CCDF is administered by the D.C. Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood Development, January 2002.

# IMPROVING CHILD CARE



THROUGH THE

# Higher Education Scholarship Project





## Participating Institutions

- University of the District of Columbia Washington, D.C.
- The Early Childhood Leadership Institute at the University of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.
- Trinity College Washington, D.C.
- Montgomery College Rockville and Takoma Park, Maryland



The Higher Education Scholarship Project (HESP) provides opportunities for tuition-free college-level education and training for child care providers.

HESP was developed by the Child Care Committee at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to improve the quality of child care in the Washington metropolitan region. In order to enhance the quality of child care, providers of child care services need adequate training and education. They need competencies in early childhood development, planning curriculum and activities for children, small business management, administration, budgeting and supervision of employees.

*\*Scholarship recipients are free to enroll at any of the participating colleges and universities, irrespective of tuition costs.*

## HESP Sponsors Past and Present

- Arlene Altman
- Cafritz Foundation
- District of Columbia Comprehensive System of Professional Development Early Intervention Program
- District of Columbia Office of Early Childhood Development
- Freddie Mac Foundation
- International Monetary Fund
- Moriah Fund
- Reginald Wilson



## How HESP Works

HESP grants scholarships to family child care providers and center-based child care staff. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis and used at area colleges and universities. The scholarships are awarded by COG in amounts equal to 50% of tuition costs; the participating college or university waives the remaining tuition under an agreement with COG. Applicants must meet program requirements and undergo a review process set up by COG and the HESP Advisory Committee.

Recipients may already be enrolled in a college degree program or may be attending college for the first time.

Scholarships enable child care providers, who have historically low incomes, to overcome a major barrier in pursuing higher education.

HESP is not just a scholarship program however. Each scholarship recipient is also matched with an experienced mentor in the field of early childhood development to support and guide them in their endeavors as students and child care professionals. HESP's Mentor Program helps scholarship recipients balance work and school and apply classroom learning in the field.



Since HESP started, more than 100 individuals have received scholarships. Many of these dedicated professionals have achieved degrees and credentials in early childhood development, and become leaders in the field. Many have also returned to give back to HESP by serving as volunteer mentors.



HESP receives support from foundations, local governments, area universities and colleges, and other organizations. However, to serve a growing need, continued support is critical. Each semester, only 40% of applicants receive a scholarship.

Fifty dollars will support one college credit for a child care provider. Under COG's agreement, every dollar donation used for tuition costs is matched by participating schools of higher education.

### COUNT ME IN

as a supporter of higher education for child care providers!

*Please accept my donation to COG's Higher Education Scholarship Project*

\$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Day) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check, payable to MWCOG, to:

COG  
Attn: Child Care HESP  
777 N. Capitol St. NE, Ste. 300  
Washington, DC 20002-4239

*COG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.*

CONTACT Terri Braxton at COG Child Care Program Phone: (202) 962-3264, e-mail: [TBRAXTON@mwco.org](mailto:TBRAXTON@mwco.org) for more information on how to support HESP, become a mentor, or contribute to the scholarship fund.